

VZCZCXRO8461
PP RUEHKN RUEHKN RUEHKN RUEHKN
DE RUEHKN #0116 2220658
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P R 100658Z AUG 09
FM AMEMBASSY KOLONIA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2351
INFO RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 0330
RUEHKN/AMEMBASSY KOROR 0347
RUEHKN/AMEMBASSY MAJURO 0459
RHHJJPI/PACOM IDHS HONOLULU HI
RUEHKN/AMEMBASSY KOLONIA 2719

UNCLAS KOLONIA 000116

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DS/IP/EAP, MANILA RSO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ASEC](#) [SOCI](#) [PGOV](#) [FM](#)
SUBJECT: EMBASSY CONTRACT GUARD MURDERED WHILE OFF-DUTY

REF: KOLONIA 99

11. (U) At about two in the morning on August 8, a member of Embassy Kolonia's local guard force was killed. Initial reports remain unconfirmed, but it appears that Embassy Guard Isel Phillip, from Chuuk, was departing a bar when he was attacked by a group of men, believed to be Pohnpeian. Security Guard Supervisor David Saimon informed the Ambassador about the case that same morning. ARSO Mario Reta, based in Manila, Philippines arrived on August 10 and is reviewing the case.

12. (SBU) Pohnpei State Attorney General Scott Garvey (Amcit) confirmed to Econ/Conoff on August 10 that Pohnpei Public Safety (police) Officers arrested three people for their involvement in the attack. The AG's Office has scheduled a hearing before the courts on August 11, at which point the AG will charge the assailants with murder, manslaughter and one charge of assault with a deadly weapon. Garvey said that Phillip had a skull fracture, but the preliminary determination by the medical examiner is that Phillip died from drowning. After being knocked unconscious, he was dumped into a ditch with a stream in it.

13. (U) Ambassador and Management Officer visited local family members of Phillip on August 10 to express condolences. The body will be transported on an Australian patrol boat for funeral services and burial in the Mortlock Islands of Chuuk State on August 20, where President Mori will coincidentally be present.

Comment

14. (SBU) Pohnpei is awash in rumors as to the reason that Phillip was killed. The three most common themes in the current rumors are that as a Chuukese, Phillip was targeted by Pohnpeians; having a relatively well paying job, he was targeted for his cash; and finally, he was involved in a drunken dispute that escalated. Saimon and others believe that Phillip was not targeted based on his relationship to the Embassy. Per Reftel, this most recent murder is in line with an apparent trend towards a growing rate of violent crime in Pohnpei.

HUGHESMK